

## Abstract

Complexes of nucleic acid and polyethyleneimine (PEI), wherein PEI is modified with a hydrophilic polymer covalently coupled thereto, such as polyethyleneglycol, and processes for preparing them. A cellular ligand such as transferrin is optionally coupled to PEI. The complexes may be used for preparing pharmaceutical compositions for transferring therapeutically effective genes into mammalian cells.